This confirms the observation of Serventy and Storr (*W.A. Nat.*, 8 1959 : 196).

Pheasants also eat the dune snail, *Cochlicella acuta*. On March 30, 1961 I was brought a hen pheasant killed when it flew into a wire fence near the water catchment. Its crop was filled with the small shells of *Coehlicella*. Mr. George Dittmer, lighthouse keeper, told me that the crop of a hen pheasant killed recently when it flew into a wireless aerial was also crammed with dune snails.

—W. A. FARMER, Rottnest Island.

Calls of the Boobook Owl *(Ninox novaeseelandiae)*.—Two observations which I made on the Peel Estate in September-October 1936 may possibly throw some light upon the function of the calls described by Eric Lindgren *(W.A. Nat.*, 8 : 207) and by G. Storr *(W.A. Nat.*, 4 : 143).

Twice I tried to locate a calling bird and on each occasion a persistent "normal" call was modified to a rapid and sustained "cook-cook-cook", the usual measured "boo-book" being resumed after my withdrawal from the vicinity.

More recently, December 29, 1960, when my son Lindsay and I were camped in the Porongorups, the "book-book-book" call was heard followed by a muffled "boo-book" which developed into the characteristic call. In this case the bird *may* have been influenced by our proximity.

In the foregoing paragraphs I have followed the relevant field notes in rendering the call as "cook-cook" in one place and "book-book" in the other. This is not significant.

Twice in January 1951, at Wooroloo, we heard atypical calls. In the first instance two birds were calling and I recorded—rather vaguely—that the calls were "obviously *Ninox* but not typical being almost tri-syllabic", and a few days later my son saw and heard a Boobook Owl, "the call being quite distinct from that usually associated with the species." I saw the bird only.

From these records it would seem that there are at least two variants of the well-known "boo-book" call.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Collie.

Possible Predation by a Lycosid Spider on a Vertebrate.—While collecting at Culham in September 1960 I turned over a stone and a small grey skink (possibly *Ablepharus* sp.) ran out. It was immediately seized by a spider (which was later identified by B. Y. Main as a juvenile *Lycosa*, possibly *L. leuekarti)*.

The lizard as it struggled shed its tail. The spider then dropped its victim and pounced on the wriggling tail and the lizard made its escape into a pile of rocks.

This instance of possible predation adds to the list of spiders preying on vertebrates reported by Main and Butler *(W. Aust. Nat.*, 7, 1959: 52).

—P. McMILLAN, Guildford.